Written Answers to Questions

International airport at Bhopal Indore

*22. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are major tourist points and pilgrimage centres in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Khajurao has the potential to attract foreigners from all over the world;

(c) if so, whether Government intend to convert Bhopal/Indore aerodrome into an International Airport and develop a tourism infrastructure in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Both these Airports will continue to be domestic Airports. However, Indore Airport is being developed as one of the 12 domestic model airports in the country where standard facilities for aircraft operation and passenger facilitation will be provided. When the work at Indore Airport is completed, the Airport will have provision for customs and immigration facilities as and when International flights operate. Presently, there is no demand from Airlines for operating international flights from Indore or Bhopal.

Holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir

*25. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated the election process in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what, according to the prevailing situation, are the election prospect in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the period by which elections in the State are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI).

(a) to (c) The aim of the Government is to further promote conditions that would be conducive to normalisation and reactivisation of the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts are being made to accelerate development works by securing people's participation, reinvigorate the local administration and enhance the cooperation and confidence of the people in the administration. These are being monitored closely. With a view to proceeding towards the democratic process, the delimitation of constituencies is being done and the work of revision of the voters' list has been taken up by the Election Commission. A public debate is on regarding the various aspects of the democratic process. While it would not be possible to indicate at this juncture any specific time-frame for holding elections in the State, government is confident that as a result of the steps being taken the overall atmosphere for the democratic process will be strengthened, thus making elections feasible.

Fertilizer prices

*26. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government have any plan to ensure that fertilizer prices exceed those in the international markets so that the farmers' capacity to export is not impaired?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): At present, only urea, which is the main nitrogenous fertilizer and constitutes about 60 per cent of the total fertilizer consumption in the country, is covered under the statutory price control. The sale price of urea in the country continues to be lower than the prices prevailing in the international market,as the controlled price is heavily sub sidised by the Government.

Based on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing, the price and movement controls on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were removed w.e f. 25.8.1992. However, to cushion the impact of increase in the open market prices of these fertilizers, the Government is giving a special concession @Rs. 10.00 per tonne on the sale of indigenous DAP together with proportionate concession on complex fertilizers and single superphosphate (SSP). A concession @ Rs. 1000/- per tonne is also being given on Muriate of Potash (MOP), which is wholly imported.

R & D on drugs and pharmaceuticals

*27. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how much money is spent annually on Industrial R and D on drugs pharmaceuticals;

(b) whether there is a window of opportunity for drug firms to step in research without prohibitive capital costs; if so; the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons that the R&D function has been neglected in India is because of Indian Patent Laws; which recognise processes and not product; if so; the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that it has encouraged skill intensity in process engineering in the sector;

(e) whether it is also a act that without adequate product recognititon, the incentive to invest in R&D has been lacking; and

(f) if so; what are the details of steps Government have taken to step up overall increase of expenditure on R and D?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The R and D expenditure incurred by the In-house R and D units in the drugs and pharmaceuticals sector during the last three years is reported to be of the following order:

1991-92	—Rs.	80 crores
1992-93	— Rs.	95 crrres.
1993-94	— Rs.	125 crores.

(b) to (f) Investment in Research and Development (including basic research) in all sectors of industry; including pharmaceutical industry; is dependent on overall corporate policy of the companies engaged in the manufacture of various industrial products. Drug technology development has been identified as a thrust area are an Expert Committee has been constituted by the Department of Science and Technology for R and D in the drug industry. An Inter Ministerial Group has also been set up by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to decide on measures to give further impetus to R and D in the drug sector.

रक

ए रारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों को नियमित किया जाना

*28. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :**
श्री जाफर मोहम्मद :

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों को नियमित करने के लिये कौन-कौन से मानदण्ड अपनाये जाते हैं;